<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for <u>automatically</u> creating and managing, ~~by~~ <u>for</u> <u>presentation to</u> a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

~~offering, by~~ <u>identifying</u> a first educational institution, <u>offering</u> a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the degree;

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of courses;

<u>comparing, by a computer system, text characterizing course content of the first and</u> <u>second plurality of courses;</u>

<u>identifying, by the computer system, equivalencies between courses of the first and</u> <u>second plurality of courses, based on the comparing;</u>

storing in [[a]] <u>the</u> computer system a database comprising records reflecting <u>the</u> equivalencies ~~between the first and second plurality of courses~~;

presenting, by the computer system over a computer network, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

selecting, by the computer system, first courses from the first plurality of courses and second courses from the second plurality of courses;

organizing, by the computer system, the first degree into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements corresponding to the first degree;

populating, by the computer system, the dependency graph with the first courses and the second courses, the first courses and second courses collectively satisfying, according to the equivalencies, the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network, the dependency graph to the student.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising mining, over the network, by the computer system, first catalog information in a first course catalog corresponding to the first educational institution to identify the first plurality of courses, and identifying the second plurality of courses by mining second catalog information contained in a second course catalog corresponding to the second educational institution;

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further ~~comprising coding~~ comprising:

creating, by a third party unaffiliated with the first and second educational institutions, a standardized coding system; and

parsing analogous ~~information~~ text in the first and second catalog information with standardized codes selected from the standardized coding system to enable comparison of the analogous ~~information~~ text.

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5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~coding further comprises coding the analogous information~~ parsing further comprises parsing the analogous text in the first and second catalog information with XML tags, and providing the analogous ~~information~~ text in the form of XML pages available on the network.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~coding~~ parsing further comprises embedding XML tags into the source code of HTML pages containing the first and second catalog information.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~coding~~ parsing further comprises creating, by [[a]] the third party ~~independent of the first and second educational institutions~~, XML pages identifying information in the first and second catalog information with XML tags.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein mining further comprises mining, over the network, information in the first and second catalog information by searching the standardized codes.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting, by the student, preferences with respect to the first and second courses used to populate the dependency graph.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferred times, preferred days, cost, credit hour load, desired time to graduate, and preferred location to take courses.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising gathering, by the computer system, scheduling information with respect to the first and second courses used to populate the dependency graph.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising creating, for the student by the computer system, a class schedule in accordance with the preferences and the scheduling information.

14-16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising importing, by the computer system, existing credits of the student into the dependency graph prior to populating the dependency graph.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is a virtual network of logical elements stored on a mass storage device.

20. (currently amended) A method for <u>automatically</u> creating and managing, ~~by~~ <u>for</u> <u>presentation to</u> a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

offering, by a first educational institution, a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the degree;

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of courses;

~~coding first catalog information~~ <u>parsing first text</u> corresponding to the first plurality of courses and second ~~catalog information~~ <u>text</u> corresponding to the second plurality of courses with XML tags to create XML pages;

<u>the parsing, further comprising delimiting a first portion of the first text and a second portion of the second text with identical XML tags to reflect an equivalence of data type therebetween;</u>

providing the XML pages on a computer network;

mining, by a computer system, the XML pages to create a record of courses selected from the first and second plurality of courses;

storing in the computer system a database comprising records reflecting equivalencies between <u>individual courses selected from</u> the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over the computer network, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

populating, by the computer system, ~~the dependency graph~~ <u>a curriculum</u> with selected

courses from the record of courses, the selected courses collectively satisfying<u>, according to the</u>

<u>equivalencies,</u> the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network, the

~~dependency graph to the student~~ <u>curriculum</u>.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (new) A computer method, automatically creating and managing, for presentation to a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational institutions, the method comprising:

identifying a first catalog authorized by a first educational institution and setting forth a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the degree;

identifying a second catalog authorized by a second educational institution and setting forth a second plurality of courses;

creating, by a third party independent from the first and second educational institutions, a standardized coding system comprising a plurality of standardized codes;

parsing text from the first and second catalogs by data type;

delimiting data types using the plurality of standardized codes;

comparing, by a computer system, first text from the first catalog to second text from the second catalog, the first and second texts each being delimited by the identical standardized code of the plurality of standardized codes;

identifying, by the computer system based on the comparing, equivalencies between courses of the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over a computer network, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

selecting, by the computer system, first courses from the first plurality of courses and second courses from the second plurality of courses;

populating, by the computer system, a curriculum with the first courses and the second courses, the first courses and second courses collectively satisfying, according to the equivalencies, the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network, the curriculum.